

WORLD EXPO 2025 NEWS

「KIZUNA –絆– News letter」

“Kizuna” is the Japanese word for “bond.”

Issued September 18, 2024, Vol.21



In order to realize the main theme of the Osaka-Kansai Expo, “Future Society for Our Lives,” participation of the business community is essential. We hope that, with business delegations from around the world visiting Japan, this will be seized upon as a great opportunity to realize “Business for Our Lives” through the Expo programs including the Theme Weeks, as well as on and off-site business interactions with countries from around the world.

Mr. Hiroyuki Ishige, Secretary General of the Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition

“HOTAMET (SHELLMET)” wins the highest award (Gold Award) at one of the world’s three major design awards, the “iF DESIGN AWARD 2024”

This Expo, which allows people not only to see but also to co-create, is already impacting the manufacturing industry in a positive way. I hope that the co-creation challenge, which has already begun even before the opening of the Expo, will be a driving force in shaping the society of the future!

Mr. Tetsuya Nambara, Planning and Development Department Manager, Koushi Chemical Industry Co., Ltd.



* Koushi Chemical Industry Co., Ltd. manufactures products made from bioplastics which are made using discarded scallop shells. Their helmets, the “HOTAMET,” and benches, the “HOTABENCH,” will be used at the Expo site.



① Mr. Ken Saito, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, announcing the display of the “Mars Rock” at Expo 2025 at a press conference.

② Department Manager Nambara of Koushi Chemical Industry Co. explains the manufacturing facility of the HOTAMET to Ms. Jimi, Minister for the World Expo 2025.

【Contents of this week’s report】

1. Movements of Participating Countries
September 10: Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition releases map of locations of overseas pavilions

2. This week /last week’s main events
September 1: Commenced accepting applications for virtual events
September 9: Announced dates of monthly fireworks displays to be held within the Expo site
September 10: Stakeholders Meeting on Expo 2025 held at the Prime Minister’s Official Residence
September 10: Producer Miyata explains the pavilion exhibits
September 10: Announced that projection mapping will take place on the walls of the EXPO Hall
September 10: Released English version of the Expo pamphlet
September 12: ANA announces the introduction of aircraft with a MYAKU-MYAKU design.
September 12: Kura Sushi, Inc. announces overview of its Expo exhibition restaurant
September 17: Announced plans to display one of the world’s largest of its kind, the “Mars Rock” at the Expo site.

3. Ticket Sales Update
Tickets sold: 4,992,017 (as of September 11)

Let’s all participate in the Expo!

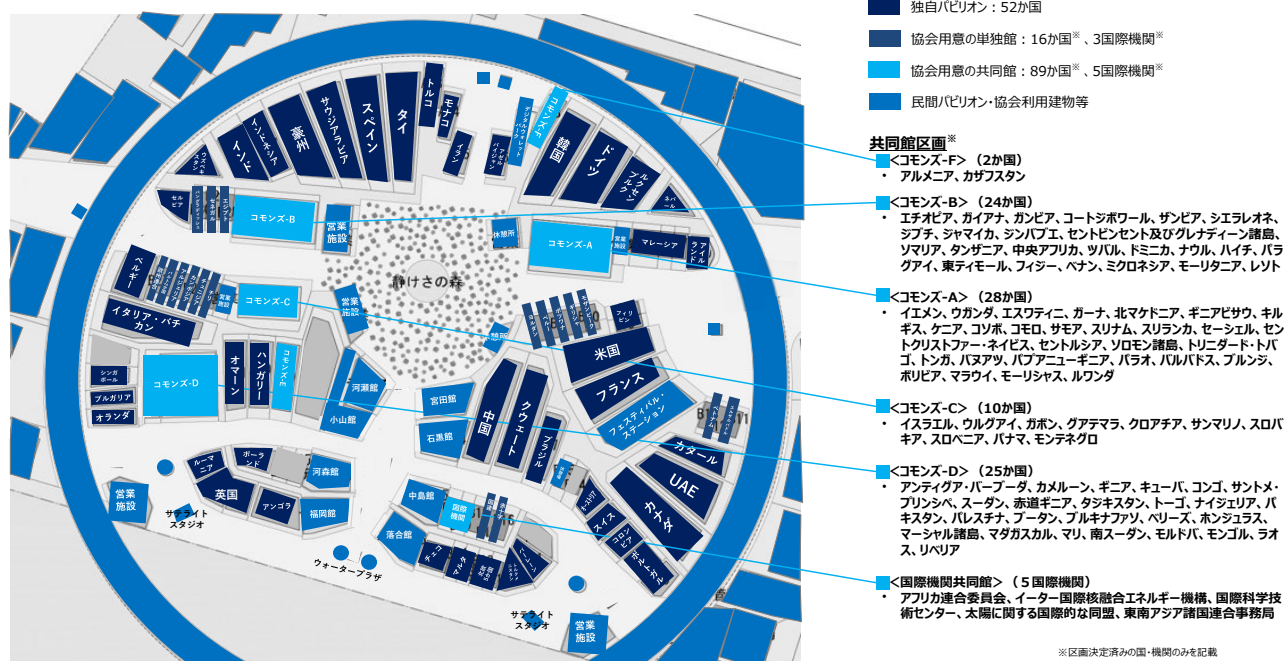


Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan Weekly Report (September 10– September 16) ~ 208 days to go!~



1. Official Participants

- September 10, The Association officially announced a map of the official participants' pavilions. The Commons, formerly called Type C and housing multiple official participants, has already been completed, and preparations for interior work and exhibitions are now in full swing.



<https://www.expo2025.or.jp/en/news/news-20240910-04/>



Status of official participants as of September 13

- Of 161 countries and 9 international organisations participations:

Those with official participation agreements:

128 countries and 6 international organisations

Countries where construction has not yet started: 7 countries

Countries with no construction contractor: 3 countries

Countries participating in the Commons: 92 countries

2. Reports from the past week and plans for the upcoming week

- September 10; A high-level meeting of stakeholders for Expo 2025 was held at the Prime Minister's Office. Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, relevant ministers including Minister Ken Saito and Minister Hanako Jimi, Governor of Osaka Prefecture Hirofumi Yoshimura, Mayor of Osaka Hideyuki Yokoyama and top business leaders including Mr Masakazu Tokura, chairman of Keidanren and Mr Masayoshi Matsumoto, chairman of Kankeiren, participated in the meeting.
- Prime Minister Kishida commended the stakeholders for the progress of preparations for the Expo and exhorted them to further promote momentum for the Expo and ensure safe and smooth operation of the venue and transportation of visitors, while being flexible in putting together the government structure needed for the said objectives.
- In the meeting, Governor Yoshimura reported on the measures to reduce the impact of IR construction during the Expo; Minister Saito welcomed the report, noting the coordination amongst relevant parties for the measures. A letter from the BIE Secretary General Dimitri Kerkentzes to Prime Minister Kishida was introduced by Minister Jimi; the letter referred to the efforts by the parties – the Government of Japan, the Association, the IR operators and the BIE – on a series of measures to ensure that the construction of the IR would not have a negative impact on the Expo. The letter noted that it is essential that the proposed stakeholders' coordination body meets frequently so that additional measures can be implemented where IR construction work does not sufficiently mitigate the impact on the Expo. Mr Kerkentzes also stated his appreciation for Prime Minister Kishida for his leadership.



October 2023



August 20th, 2024



From left to right : Prime Minister Kishida, Minister Jimi, and Minister Saito

https://japan.kantei.go.jp/101_kishida/actions/202409/10banpaku.html



- September 17; Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Ken Saito announced that one of the world's largest meteorite originating from Mars will be exhibited the Expo site. The meteorite was collected by the Japanese Antarctic Research Expedition and is being safeguarded by the National Institute of Polar Research. This is the first time it will be displayed to the public.



- September 10; Professor Hiroaki Miyata, responsible for the signature pavilion Better Co-Being, introduced his exhibition plans in a press conference. The pavilion will feature three experiences under the theme Resonance of Lives.

Entrance to Sequence 1: 'Resonance between people'

Visitors will go through an experience of looking at self and others, re-recognising what connects them. An art installation highlighting various motifs will be installed to foster this experience.



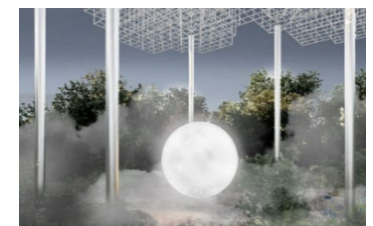
Sequence 2: 'Resonance between people and the world'

Visitors will connect with each other and face the world together, recognising their diverse values and together creating a rainbow symbolizing a better future.



Sequence 3: 'Resonance between people and the future'

A vision of the future will be composed as a visual art sequence appealing to the five senses, overlapping the experiences of the visitors who gathered at that location on that day. Details of the project, involving artists from Japan and abroad, will be announced on the Association website from January 2025.



Two keys materials that lead to a resonance experience

1) Better Co-Being App (by Obayashi Corporation)

An app that supports the resonant experience of visitors. Throughout the Expo, it will archive the experiences of visitors and promote awareness of the diverse perspectives and values of others.



2) Echorb, a mystery stone (by Murata Manufacturing)

Applying a technology called 3D haptics, visitors will experience resonance through a mysterious sense of touch, connecting diverse participants and creating opportunities for resonance.



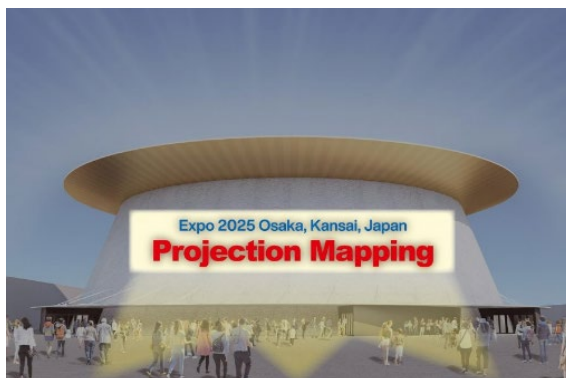
<https://www.expo2025.or.jp/news/news-20240910-02/>



- September 10; The Association announced that projection mapping will be carried out every night on the wall of the EXPO hall, Shine Hat . Advance reservation will not be required. Contents to be screened will be solicited from the public, with application guidelines to be announced in late October.

Date & time: Each night from April 13, 2025 - October 13, 2025

Venue: Expo Hall “Shine Hat”



<https://www.expo2025.or.jp/news/news-20240910-03/>



- September 9; The Association announced the date of the Japan Fireworks Expo, a monthly fireworks display to be held at the Expo site. Japan's world-class fireworks technology and its unique culture will be showcased to the world.

- Date: April 26, May 31, June 28, July 21 and 23, August 23, September 27, and October 8
- Content: Japan's leading firework artisans will come from all over the country to show off their artistic fireworks, for five to ten minutes. A special show will be held on July 23.



<https://www.expo2025.or.jp/news/news-20240909-03/>

- The following events were announced by the Association in the past week:

- QuizKnock!! - We will solve your doubts (August 24,2025)
- LOHAS Festa (June 2-4, 2025)



<https://www.expo2025.or.jp/news/news-20240911-01/>



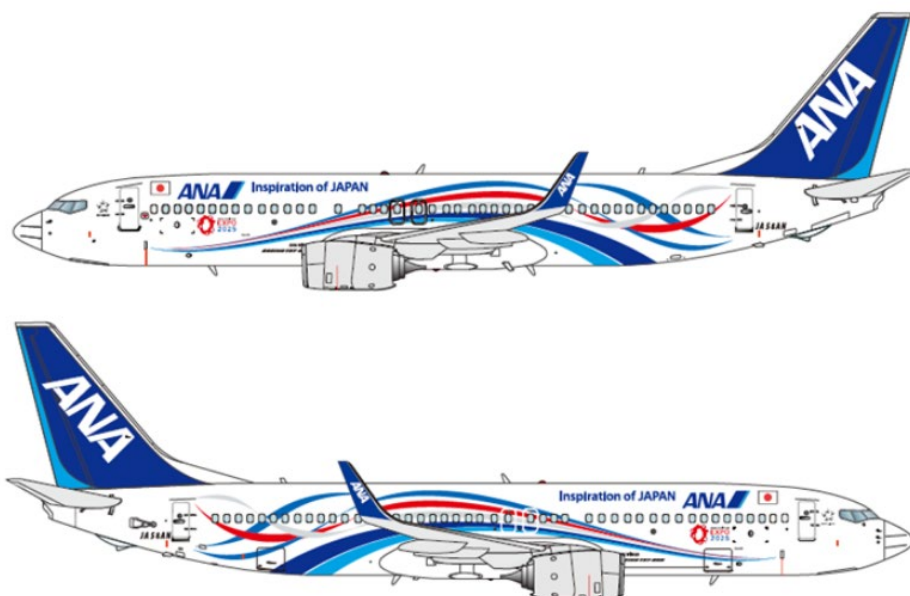
<https://www.expo2025.or.jp/news/news-20240912-01/>

- September 10; The Association released an English-language version of the Expo pamphlet. Chinese (simplified and traditional), Korean, French, and Thai versions will also be released in due course.



<https://www.expo2025.or.jp/en/news/news-20240809-02/>

- September 12; ANA announced the introduction of a special aircraft (the Expo 2025 ANA Jet) that combines the Expo-themed colours (red, blue and gray) with ANA corporate colours (Mohawk Blue, Triton Blue). The Jet is scheduled to start operation on domestic routes on the beginning of December.



<https://www.expo2025.or.jp/news/news-20240912-02/>



- September 12; Kura Sushi announced the outline of its Expo outlet. The restaurant will be equipped with a rotating belt of 135 meters and 338 seats, the largest in the company's history.]As a sustainable outlet, the Kura Sushi will Expo restaurant will reuse approximately 336,000 red shells that would otherwise be discarded as exterior wall materials. It will be fitted with natural plaster using glue made from seaweed. In addition to sushi, the outlet will offer characteristic menu from around the world as well as dishes prepared from under-utilised fish varieties.



<https://www.kurasushi.co.jp/author/005881.html>



- September 1; The Association started accepting applications for the third phase of the Virtual Event, to be held in cyberspace for the Virtual Expo. In addition to stand-alone events at the virtual Expo site, events that link the Expo site with the virtual site are also being sought. Production and operation costs will be borne by the applicant.

< Overview >

➤ Application Period

3rd period: September 1, 2024 - September 30, 2024

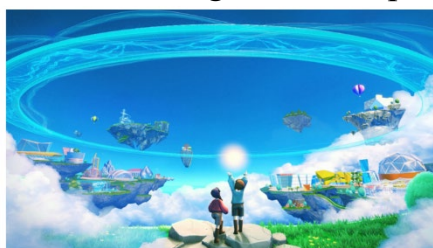
4th period: October 1, 2024 - October 31, 2024

5th period: November 1, 2024 - November 30, 2024

6th period: December 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024

(Application period will end as soon as the availability of the facility runs out.)

➤ Events catering to limited participants only will not be eligible.



<https://www.expo2025.or.jp/news/news-20240910-01/>

3. Ticket sales

Number of tickets sales: 4,992,017 as of September 11, 2024

4. O&As

1) Costs of safety measures

With additional costs incurred due to safety measures for methane gas, will there be an overshooting of the construction costs for the venue?

- i. The Association announced safety measures regarding methane gas emission during the event on 24 June. It is important that the measures are properly implemented.
- ii. The details of the costs for the safety measures were approved at the Association's board meeting on 13 September. The costs are within the total construction costs of JPY 235 billion. The JPY 222 billion already allocated will be utilized efficiently, recouping unused costs, and the ¥13 billion held in reserve will not be immediately spent.
- iii. The government will ensure the proper execution of the budget through the Budget Execution Monitoring Committee established in the Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry.

2) Implementation of IR construction during the Expo

The BIE Secretary General and others have requested that IR construction work be suspended during the Expo period; has there been any agreement among the parties concerned to carry out the work?

- i. The government, the Association, Osaka Prefecture, the City of Osaka and the BIE are unanimous in their view that, while both the Expo and the IR are important projects, the success of the Expo is the top priority during the Expo period.
- ii. At the high-level meeting convened by the Prime Minister on 10 September, Governor Yoshimura presented the specific measures by the IR operators to mitigate the impact on the Expo and promised that the IR construction work will be carried out in such a way that there would be no negative impact on the Expo.
- iii. BIE Secretary General Kerkentzes also told the recent stakeholders' meeting through his letter that he was pleased that a series of measures have been agreed to ensure that the construction work of the IR will not have a negative impact on the Expo.

- iv. He also mentioned that it is vital that the proposed stakeholders' coordination body meets frequently so that additional measures can be implemented where IR construction work does not sufficiently mitigate the impact on the Expo. The message was acknowledged as a message of understanding.

3) Paper tickets without a reservation

It is said that the conditions for using paper tickets without a reservation for visiting the venue in Japan were left to the chairman, but what kind of discussions were held?

- i. At the Association board meeting on 13 September, the proposal from the Association and that from the Osaka Prefecture were discussed. It was agreed that reservations for the date and time of the visit would be necessary before 11am – when traffic and gate areas get particularly congested – and on days and at times when a large number of visitors are expected. The Board then mandated the Chairman to decide on the specific days and times.
- ii. Based on the discussions at the board meeting, Chairman Tokura will be able to make an appropriate decision in a timely manner, with the Association to announce the result as soon as it has been decided.

4) Entry of pets to the Expo venue

Why has it been decided that pets are not allowed into the event?

- i. As a result of discussions at the 13 September Board of Directors meeting, it was decided not to implement the idea of bringing pets to the Expo site.
- ii. Various methods of implementing the idea of visitors coming with their pets were examined, and the Board decided against the idea from the perspective of feasibility.